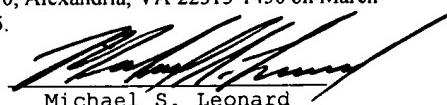


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application Of: )  
T. Sugata et al. )  
For: FASTENER AND SECUREMENT )  
SUBJECT HAVING THE FASTENER )  
SECURED THERETO )  
Serial No.: 10/568,566 )  
Filed: February 21, 2006 )  
Examiner: unknown )  
Art Unit: 3676 )  
Conf. No.: 7859 )  
Atty Dkt No.: 114208-060 )  
                        )  
                        )  
                        )

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited  
with the United States Postal Office with sufficient  
postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed  
to: MAIL STOP, Commissioner for Patents, P.O.  
Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March  
17, 2005.



Michael S. Leonard

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF INSUFFICIENT FEES AND PRELIMINARY  
AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Response is submitted in response to a Notification of Insufficient Fees mailed  
by the patent office on September 19, 2006. A copy of the Notification is enclosed.

This Response pays the fees due. This response is also a preliminary amendment  
which reduces the number of claims and the fees which were due. Applicants request  
amendment to the application.

This Response is timely submitted within two months of the September 19, 2006  
mailing date, as November 19, 2006 is a Sunday.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any  
issues with this application.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Response.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this Response.